



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

MARCH 2018

VIRTUE FOR MARCH: FORGIVENESS



Principal's Message

The virtue for the month of March is Forgiveness. During this season of Lent, we need to all strive to learn to forgive each other. Forgiveness should be part of our daily routine. It is always better to forgive and move forward. In doing so, it makes for a better, healthier, and happier life. Let us try to forgive our fellow brothers and sisters for any wrongdoings and do as Jesus did.

A. Cianchetti
Principal

AT A GLANCE – SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, March 2		World Day of Prayer
Wednesday, March 7	AM	Grade 8 Graduation Pictures
Thursday, March 8	AM	Grade 3 to 8 Skating at City Hall
Friday, March 9	1:00 pm	Grade 3 to 8 Confessions at St. Francis of Assisi Church
Sunday, March 11		Daylight Saving Time Begins – Clocks Go Forward 1 Hour
Mon. March 12 – Fri., March 16		Mid-Winter Break
Saturday, March 24	8:30 – 9:30 pm	Earth Hour
Friday, March 30		Good Friday

Please see the monthly calendar for additional information and events.

FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to the following students who were this month's ambassadors for the virtue of Love:

Miss Mazzuca/Ms. Raposo	Lucas A
Ms. Jennings	Evangelia K
Mr. Sorrentino	Anabella P
Ms. Nina	Rogeilene T
Mr. Pietramala	Kyle C
Miss Silva	Alessio TF
Ms. Rodrigues	Kayla H
Ms. Prsa	Matteo ODM
Ms. Pimentel	Lucas F
Ms. Calautti	Nana N

A. Cianchetti		
PRINCIPAL		
John Shanahan 416 222-8282 X5371		
SUPERINTENDENT		
Jo-Ann Davis 416 512-3409		
TRUSTEE		
St. Francis of Assisi Parish		
72 Mansfield Avenue 416-536-8195		
PARISH		
Penny Farinha		
CSPC CHAIR		
www.tcdsb.org/cpic		
CPIC (PARENT ENGAGEMENT - TCDSB)		
www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto		
OAPCE TORONTO (PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)		
157	8:30 – 3:30	11:15 - 12:15
ENROLLMENT	HOURS OF OPERATION	LUNCH HOUR



NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org
Call 416-393-5206 or the TCDSB Admissions Department at 416-222-8282, ext. 5320.

For general information about the Toronto Catholic District School Board, visit www.tcdsb.org

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year: Follow @TCDSB on Twitter or Toronto Catholic DSB on Instagram

STUDENT SAFETY AND REMINDERS

- **To ensure the safety of everyone concerned, please be reminded that adults may not be in the school building without reporting to and signing in at the office. This includes, but is not limited to parents/caregivers, guests, board employees, contractors. We know that you share our concern for student safety and well-being at all times.**
- During inclement weather, students are brought into the building by school staff. They will wait in the music room, where they will be supervised until pick up from their respective classroom teachers. Parents are asked to leave children in the atrium. Congestion outside of the music room and in the main foyer pose safety concerns.
- There are still a number of students who are consistently late for school. The expectation is that students will be in the schoolyard between 8:15 and 8:30 am to reconnect with their friends and enter the building as a class with their teacher. Students who are consistently late miss out on morning routines, instructional time and disrupt programming. It can also cause some students difficulty in keeping up with their school work.
- **Cold Weather:** please ensure that students come to school prepared for the weather. All students should be dressed appropriately, so that they may participate in all aspects of the school program. Warm jackets, snow pants, hats, gloves, scarves and warm boots are absolutely necessary in the winter months. We recommend that you label all items. Please keep a labeled pair of **indoor shoes** in your child's classroom, so that we can keep our classrooms dry.
- Students who are well enough to attend school will go out for recess. In cases of extreme cold or weather conditions, recess will be held indoors.

REGISTRATION FOR KINDERGARTEN CONTINUES

Parents are able to complete their application online at <https://www.SOAR.tcdsb.org> and follow up with a visit to the school to present the required documents. The online application is available 24 hours. Please call the school if you require further information or would like to book an appointment to register your child.

TCDSB SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2018-2019 APPROVED

Number of school days	194
Number of Professional Activity Days	7
Labour Day	September 3, 2018
First Instructional Day	September 4, 2018
Thanksgiving Day	October 8, 2018
Christmas Break	December 24, 2018–January 4, 2019
Start of second semester for secondary schools	February 4, 2019
Family Day	February 18, 2019
Mid-Winter Break	March 11–15, 2019
Good Friday	April 19, 2019
Easter Monday	April 22, 2019
Victoria Day	May 20, 2019
Last day of classes for elementary students	June 27, 2019

Seven (7) Professional Activity (PA) Days for ELEMENTARY schools:

- October 5, 2018 Provincial Education Priorities/Faith Development
- November 16, 2018 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- December 7, 2018 Provincial Education Priorities
- January 18, 2019 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
- February 15, 2019 Parent-Teacher Conferences
- June 7, 2019 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting
- June 28, 2019 Provincial Education Priorities

- Three PA days devoted to Provincial Education Priorities and supporting Article 19 of the Collective Agreement.
- One PA day devoted to Faith Development.
- One PA day devoted to numeracy across the curriculum.
- The remaining two PA days will be devoted to system priorities, annual learning plans and local goals articulated in the School Learning Improvement Plans

PUBLIC CONSULTATION FOR 2018-2019 TCDSB BUDGET

The Board's annual budget consultation process will begin at the end of March 2018. The public consultation is an important planning tool to ensure the development of an effective and balanced budget that supports the academic achievement of our students.

Under the Education Act (Section 232), the Board is required to prepare and submit a budget to the Ministry of Education outlining estimates of its revenues and expenses for the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year by end of June 2018. Stay tuned for more details and information on our school and Board website.

SHARELIFE WEEK MARCH 18 – 24

Board Wide ShareLife Civvies Day – Friday, March 23

The money raised through the annual ShareLife campaign supports Catholic charities in Toronto, across Canada and overseas. Many of these charities are very familiar to TCDSB students, staff and families, including Covenant house, Rosalie Hall, Providence Healthcare, the Office of Refugees and the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace. More information about ShareLife and the agencies it supports can be found here: <http://www.sharelife.org/Public/ShareLife-List-of-Agencies>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS:

- **Ministry of Education Consultation: A New Vision for Student Transportation**

Consultation for families relying on school bus transportation is open until March 29, 2018

<https://www.tcdsb.org/programs/services/board/services/studenttransportation/pages/bus-transportation-consultation.aspx>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS:

- **Focus on Youth--Summer Employment Opportunity**

Application Deadline: March 8, 2018

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/FocusOnYouth/pages/employmentapplication.aspx>

AUTISM AWARENESS EVENING

April 8, 2018 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

Featuring Aspie Comedian Michael McCreary

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SpecialEducation/Autism/autismawareness/Pages/2018-events.aspx>

ANNUAL DEBATE COMPETITION

On February 2, the Gifted students across the board came together for the Annual Debate Competition. This year, the topic was: Be It Resolved - Social Media is Beneficial to Society. St. Francis of Assisi's team worked together to research, write, and present their teams position. Unfortunately, no one from our team was in medal standings, however, we presented strong points and were prepared for the cross-examinations.

"It was serious, but fun at the same time." Matteo O

"It was intimidating at times, but I highly recommend everyone to try." Spencer B



HIGH PARK



On a rainy Friday in February, the Grade 1 and 2's went to the High Park Nature Centre. We learned about how to identify and interpret animal tracks. Students found out how animals have adapted to survive the winter, learned about different bird sounds, and how to identify the clues that animals leave behind. Students enjoyed learning at various activity centre and then headed outside to hang up the pine cone bird feeders they made. While outside, we enjoyed playing some games together while avoiding the ice and mud puddles in the park. It was a wonderful afternoon of learning despite the rainy, damp weather.



SKI SNOW VALLEY



It was a great day to hit the slopes at Snow Valley – spring style. Just ask our grades 6 through 8 students! No ‘slips’ on the hill or “Go back and do it again” spoiled their determination to pass on to the next stage. For many, they were even more determined to get their green – and even blue – stripe. It was an optimal day overall.

Thank you to all the students for respecting the ‘rules on the hill’ and for their amazing behavior the whole day long on the hill and in the chalet. Snow Valley was very impressed by complimenting us.



Thank you to Magic Bus Company for getting us there and back safely and comfortably. Thank you to TCDSB Outdoor Education for subsidizing the cost of the bus. Thank you to Snow Valley for keeping us organized and safe. Thank you to all staff for the team work. And thank you to the parents who spent the day with us on and off the slopes. Who got all the kids to school on time in the early morning dressed to ski. It takes the whole community to continue making this annual excursion a success!

JUNIOR SOCCER

Mr. Pietramala and Mr. Sorrentino would like to thank the boys and girls on the Junior Soccer Teams for their hard work, determination, excellent sportsmanship and outstanding play during the Tournaments held on January 30 and 31. They represented St. Francis of Assisi School very proudly. Congratulation and way to go boys and girls!

Boys Junior Soccer Team

Shane B
Brian C
Justin C
Ruben DC
Cristiano DF
Liam DS
Luca F
Hudson J
Adam S
Luca S
Peter Z

Girls Junior Soccer Team

Chiara C
Bianca DF
Renée F
Sofia G
Keira H
Elisa I
Ella M
Sophia N
Isabel P
Nicole P
Maia R

Thank you to Mr. Pietramala and Mr. Sorrentino for coaching the teams.

BOYS BASKETBALL

On Tuesday, February 20, St. Francis of Assisi hosted the Boys’ Divisional Basketball Tournament. The St. Francis of Assisi School team were faced with challenging games and were unable to advance to the Regional Tournament. They represented SFA well. Congratulations to Lucas A, Alessandro BG, Jamie F, Lucas F, Harrison J, Kai M, Matteo ODM, Roberto R, Calen S, Alessio TF, and Michael V.

Thank you to our coach, Ms. Prsa, the scorekeepers, Daniela B, Laura L, and Rogene T, and to all the parents who came to support the team.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

On Wednesday, February 21, St. Francis of Assisi hosted the Girls’ Divisional Basketball Tournament. With strong competitors and teams alike, the SFA team, composed of grades 6 through 8, were faced with many intense and challenging games. The girls held their own against their opponents; suffering two losses, but succeeding with the only win in the tournament against the first place team, St. Sebastian. Even though the incredible girls’ team did not advance to the Regional Tournament, they represented SFA with great pride. Congratulations to Emma B, Amanda C, Rebecca F, Sofia G, Kayla H, Rita M, Sophia N, Nicole P, Sydney P, Brianna PS, and Hailey P.

A big thank you to our coach, Miss Silva; the convener, Ms. Pol-Bodetto; the scorekeepers, Daniela B, Sofia I, Laura L, and Rogene T; and to all of the parents who came out to cheer on the team.



By Sydney P

Mental Health Benefits of Prayer

During Lent we are encouraged to engage in almsgiving, fasting and prayer. Our focus this month is on prayer and it's many benefits.

God is a source of comfort, strength and love for us. Through prayer we enter into a deeper relationship with God and gain a sense of attachment to Him. Many studies have shown that individuals who pray to a loving and protective God with whom they have a meaningful relationship are less likely to experience anxiety and stress. Prayer offers emotional comfort and reduces stress by:

- **Offering a sense of comfort and hope.** When you're faced with life challenges, prayer offers a sense of comfort. Knowing that God listens to your prayers and that you don't have to bear your burden alone offers a sense of hope. When you feel hopeful you gain strength and are encouraged to carry on.
- **Creating a positive frame of mind.** By giving thanks and expressing gratitude when praying it creates a positive frame of mind. When you purposefully engage in "thankful prayer" it reminds you of the many blessings you have, and as a result helps to decrease feelings of sadness.
- **Stress Relief.** Researchers have found that when focusing on other people through prayer it contributes to a "stress-buffering effect". Reflecting on the welfare of others can reduce your own stress - it is in giving to others that we receive.
- **Increases feelings of unity and trust.** Praying together with a friend, your class, or as a community is an experience that brings people closer together. Prayer can help build relationships and feelings of social connectedness.

Engaging in daily prayer with students gives them the opportunity to deepen their relationship with God and their community. It also offers a sense of emotional comfort that everyone can benefit from. Prayer is joy

Prayer is love
Prayer is peace.
You cannot explain it you must experience it.
It is not impossible.
God gives it for the asking.
"Ask and you shall receive."
The father knows what to give his children
---how much more our heavenly father knows - *Mother Teresa*

Information obtained from the following sources: www.spiritualityhealth.com; www.psychcentral.com
www.psychologytoday.com; Catholic Book of Prayer – compiled by Ruth M. Hannon

TRUSTEES 2017 – 2018

Wards

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Joseph Martino | 5. Maria Rizzo, Vice-Chair | 9. Jo-Ann Davis |
| 2. Ann Andrachuk | 6. Frank D'Amico | 10. Barbara Poplawski, Chair |
| 3. Sal Piccininni | 7. Michael Del Grande | 11. Angela Kennedy |
| 4. Patrizia Bottoni | 8. Garry Tanuan | 12. Nancy Crawford
Rhea Carlisle, Student Trustee
Joel Ndongmi, Student Trustee |

